

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Education, Children and Families Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 December 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Dawn Dale (Co-Chair), Brian Holmshaw (Deputy Chair), Colin Ross (Group Spokesperson), Peter Garbutt, Mary Lea, Anne Murphy and Ann Whitaker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Smith. Councillor Vic Bowden attended.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 2.1 No items were identified where resolution was sought from the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 4.1 Councillor Brian Holmshaw raised the issue of a Register item not being added to the agenda previously. Andrew Jones stated that the item was added to the agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

- 5.1 No petitions had been received and none were asked at the meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

- 6.1 The Committee received an amended agenda prior to the meeting, containing items for consideration and discussion. The agenda items known, substantive agenda items for consideration. To enable this Committee, other committees and members to plan their work with and for the Committee meeting, including any new items, the agenda was presented by the Chairs, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson. These were set out at the beginning of the meeting. It was highlighted that this is a live document and the Committee and Members' input to it will be taken into account.
- 6.2 Councillor Colin Ross noted that the agenda for December's Policy Committee meeting was presented to the Committee at the beginning of the meeting.

this item had been withdrawn on p
January's Policy Committee meeting.

- 6.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That
out in Appendix 1, be agreed, in
identified in Part 1, and with the a
Register pertaining to Education, Chil
the work programme for submission
Committee.

7. **FUTURE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND THE LEARN SHEFFIELD COMMISSION**

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided the committee with a summary of the Learn Sheffield commissioning arrangements and outlined potential recommendations for next steps following the commission end date.

- 7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) Note the work currently undertaken by Learn Sheffield, the changes in Government guidance and the decision taken by Schools Forum regarding funding for school improvement;
- (b) Endorse further work being undertaken to develop option 3, noting the risk areas and mitigations needed if the commission ceases or is significantly changed;
- (c) Note the circumstances that would require SCC to resign as the Supervising Authority of the school company; and
- (d) Agree to seek agreement from School Forum to de-delegate funds from school budgets to provide a service co-created with school leaders (such agreement to come into effect should option 3 ultimately be agreed by the Committee).

7.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 7.3.1 Developing Option 3 will allow SCC to move towards delivering services directly to its maintained schools. This would enable SCC to:

- Make more effective use of a significantly reduced resource
- Know its schools better
- Allocate limited resources more appropriately
- Build stronger relationships with school leaders and governors
- Ensure support, challenge and intervention is better matched to need

and provided in a more timely way

- Better coordinate and integrate school improvement services with other services provided by the council such as inclusion and SEND
- Have more confidence they are fulfilling their core school improvement activities

7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 The Council must make suitable arrangements to delivery statutory services to maintained schools following the end of the grant funding period, and the options are detailed in paragraphs 1.15 – 1.23 above.

8. **THE EARLY YEARS "START FOR LIFE IN SHEFFIELD" STRATEGY 2023-28**

8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Integrated Commissioning requesting that the Education, Children and Families Committee note the intention to develop a new 5-year Early Years Strategy within Sheffield.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) endorse the proposal to develop a New Early Years Strategy for 2023 to 2028.
- (b) endorse the new title for the Strategy of 'Start for Life in Sheffield'. This new title is in line with national developments within the Family Hubs Programme and was supported by attendees at the Early Years Event in October 2022.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

The Current Early Years Strategy is ending in March 2023. It is vital that the city has a new Early Years strategy that considers not only the developments in Early Years outlined above but also has relevance in terms of the issues facing the families and children of Sheffield in the current economic climate.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 The current Great Start in Life Strategy could be refreshed however the level of change locally both locally and nationally in terms of the issues facing families, the impact of the pandemic and the national developments around EYFS and Family Hubs present an opportunity to consult and co-produce a new Early Years Strategy that can positively impact on the lives of children and young people.

8.4.2 As such it is recommended that a new strategy be developed for 2023 to 2028.

9. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND**

DISABILITY SUFFICIENCY BRIEFING

- 9.1 Joe Horobin, Head of Commissioning Manager, were in at Educational Needs and Sufficiency.
- 9.2 Councillor Dawn Dale asked when t the Committee and asked that this b and comments from Members. Joe bring this to committee in January timeline could be discussed with me to committee.
- 9.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Policy Committee notes the informati and Disability Sufficiency.

10. ALL PHASE MAINSTREAM COMMISSIONING PLAN 2023-26 - HEADLINES REPORT

- 10.1 Joe Horobin and Tracey Brook, Cor present a headline report on the All P
- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Policy Committee notes the inform Commissioning.